

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-17 (Canceled).

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): A negative-electrode material for a lithium secondary battery, comprising a graphite-composite mixture powder (C) that comprises:

a graphite composite powder (A) in which a graphite (D), whose aspect ratio is 1.2 or larger and 4.0 or smaller, is compounded with a graphite (E), which has orientation different from orientation of said graphite (D); and

an artificial graphite powder (B).

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The negative-electrode material for a lithium secondary battery as defined in claim 18, wherein said graphite (D) is a natural graphite.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The negative-electrode material for a lithium secondary battery as defined in claim 18, wherein said graphite-composite mixture powder (C) has

a tap density of 0.8 g/cm^3 or higher,

a BET specific surface area of $1 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ or larger and $5 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ or smaller, and

an interlayer spacing d_{002} between (002) planes of 0.3360 nm or smaller according to X-ray diffraction.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The negative-electrode material for a lithium secondary battery as defined in claim 18, wherein said graphite composite powder (A) has an aspect ratio of 1.1 or higher and 4.0 or lower.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The negative-electrode material for a lithium secondary battery as defined in claim 18, wherein said graphite composite powder (A) has a tap density of 0.80 g/cm^3 or higher and 1.35 g/cm^3 or lower, a BET specific surface area of $0.8 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ or larger and $5.5 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ or smaller, and a volume-based average particle diameter of $6 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$ or larger and $80 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$ or smaller.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The negative-electrode material for a lithium secondary battery as defined in claim 18, wherein said artificial graphite powder (B) has a BET specific surface area of $0.3 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ or larger and $3 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ or smaller, and a volume-based average particle diameter of $3 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$ or larger and $30 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$ or smaller.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The negative-electrode material for a lithium secondary battery as defined in claim 18, wherein the ratio of the amount of said graphite (D) to the amount of said graphite composite powder (A) is 30 weight % or higher and 97 weight % or lower.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The negative-electrode material for a lithium secondary battery as defined in claim 18, wherein the ratio of the amount of said graphite composite powder (A) to the amount of said graphite-composite mixture powder (C) is 35 weight % or higher and 98 weight % or lower.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The negative-electrode material for a lithium secondary battery as defined in claim 18, wherein said graphite (E) and said artificial graphite powder (B) are made up of the same material.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The negative-electrode material for a lithium secondary battery as defined in claim 18, wherein said negative-electrode material further comprises a natural graphite powder (G), and the ratio of the amount of said graphite-composite mixture powder (C) to the total amount of said graphite-composite mixture powder (C) and said natural graphite powder (G) is 20 weight % or higher and 90 weight % or lower.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The negative-electrode material for a lithium secondary battery as defined in claim 18, wherein when an electrode with an electrode density of $1.63 \pm 0.05 \text{ g/cm}^3$ is formed using said negative-electrode material as an active material, the orientation ratio of the active material is 0.07 or higher.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The negative-electrode material for a lithium secondary battery as defined in claim 18, wherein a lithium secondary battery produced using said negative-electrode material has a discharging capacity of 345 mAh/g or larger.

Claims 30-31 (Cancelled).

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): A negative electrode for a lithium secondary battery, comprising:

a current collector; and

an active material layer formed on said current collector;

wherein said active material layer comprises a negative-electrode material for a lithium secondary battery as defined in claim 18.

Claims 33-34 (Cancelled).

Claim 35 (Currently Amended): A lithium secondary battery comprising:
a positive electrode and a negative electrode capable of intercalating and
deintercalating lithium ions; and
an electrolyte;
wherein said negative electrode is a negative electrode ~~is a negative electrode~~ for a
lithium secondary battery as defined in claim 32.

Claims 36-37 (Cancelled).

Claim 38 (New): A negative-electrode material for a lithium secondary battery,
comprising a graphite-composite mixture powder (C) that comprises:
a graphite composite powder (A) in which a graphite (D), whose aspect ratio is 1.2 or
larger and 4.0 or smaller, is compounded with a graphite (E), which has a crystal orientation
different from the crystal orientation of said graphite (D) and a characteristic size not
anisotropically different from the characteristic size of said graphite (D); and
an artificial graphite powder (B);
wherein said graphite composite powder (A) has an aspect ratio of 1.1 or larger and
4.0 or smaller.

Claim 39 (New): A negative-electrode material for a lithium secondary battery as
defined in claim 18, wherein one of the graphite (D) and the graphite (E) has a single crystal
orientation while the other has random crystal orientations.

Claim 40 (New): A negative-electrode material for a lithium secondary battery as defined in claim 18, wherein the graphite (D) and the graphite (E) both have single crystal orientations that are different from each other.

Claim 41 (New): A negative-electrode material for a lithium secondary battery as defined in claim 38, wherein one of the graphite (D) and the graphite (E) has a single crystal orientation while the other has random crystal orientations.

Claim 42 (New): A negative-electrode material for a lithium secondary battery as defined in claim 38, wherein the graphite (D) and the graphite (E) both have single crystal orientations that are different from each other.

Claim 43 (New): A negative-electrode material for a lithium secondary battery, comprising a graphite composite mixture powder (C) that comprises:

a graphite composite mixture of a graphite composite powder (A) in which a graphite (D), whose aspect ratio is 1.2 or larger and 4.0 or smaller, is compounded with a graphite (E), which has a crystal orientation different from the crystal orientation of said graphite (D); and
an artificial graphite powder (B);

wherein the graphite composite mixture of the graphite composite powder (A) and the artificial graphite powder (B) is subjected to graphitization in an inactive or non-oxidative atmosphere.

Claim 44 (New): A negative-electrode material for a lithium secondary battery as defined in Claim 43, wherein the graphite composite mixture is subjected to graphitization at a temperature within the range of 2800°C to 3200°C.

Claim 45 (New): A negative-electrode material for a lithium secondary battery as defined in Claim 44, wherein the graphite composite mixture is subjected to graphitization at a temperature within the range of 2800°C to 3200°C in the presence of a graphitization catalyst.

Claim 46 (New): A negative-electrode material for a lithium secondary battery as defined in Claim 45, wherein the graphite composite mixture is subjected to graphitization at a temperature within the range of 2800°C to 3200°C in the presence of a graphitization catalyst selected from the group consisting of Si and B.